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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,790	02/14/2002	Larry E. Wittmeyer JR.	000409.090	9158
27910	7590	01/22/2004	EXAMINER	
STINSON MORRISON HECKER LLP			AHMAD, NASSER	
ATTN: PATENT GROUP			ART UNIT	
1201 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 2800			PAPER NUMBER	
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106-2150			1772	

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,790

Applicant(s)

WITTMAYER, LARRY E. 

Examiner

Nasser Ahmad

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1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-17, 20-25 and 28-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 30-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-25 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's affirmation of election with traverse of Group I (claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-17 and 19-25) in Paper No. 6 and 4 is acknowledged.

In the absence of any ground(s) of traversal, the requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-17, 19-25 and newly submitted claims 28-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 23 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cromett (6,264,786).

Cromett relates to a decal (10) comprising a base section (12) having a base sheet (22) coated with a release compound (24) and a coating (26) covering said release compound. The decal (10) also comprises an adhesive section (16) having first and second backing sheets (18, 20), an adhesive layer (30, 32) located between said

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backing sheet and comprised of first and second adhesive sub-layers (30, 32), and a barrier layer (28) positioned between said sub-layers. As shown in figure-2-3, the image (14) is taken to be the decorative layer adhered to the layer (26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cromett in view of Mazurek.

Cromett, as discussed above, fails to teach that the barrier layer is opaque or foil.

Mazurek discloses adhesive tape wherein the backing can be of metallized polymeric film, metal, etc. which are known to be opaque or foil with the motivation to provide for strength to the tape. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Mazurek's teaching of providing opaque or foil barrier or backing for a double-sided adhesive tape in the invention of Cromett.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-17, 19-22 and 20-34 are allowed.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest the presence of a distinct finish layer located between the release compound layer and the ink jet coating layer.

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7. Claim 29 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

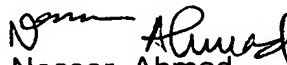
Claim 29 is free of the prior art uncovered so far in that the recited particles for the decorative layer is not disclosed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is (571)272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571)272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-0987.


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
January 8, 2004.